

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

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FOR MR LEWIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 6319 ACTION SECSTATE INFO EC
BRUSSELS OECD PARIS USUN NEW YORK 4 AUG 76

QUOTE UNCLAS GENEVA 6319

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECOSOC EGEN EFIN

SUBJECT: 61ST ECOSOC-AGENDA ITEM13-US PROPOSAL ON ILLICIT
PAYMENTS

REF: GENEVA 6273

1. ON AUGUST 4, THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE APPROVED WITHOUT
VOTE THE RESOLUTION ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS CONTAINED IN L/590
(TRANSMITTED REFTEL). RESOLUTION WILL GO BEFORE THE PLENARY
TOMORROW, AUGUST 5, AND IT IS NOT ANTICIPATED THAT THERE WILL
BE ANY PROBLEMS.

2. FOLLOWING APPROVAL, CZECHOSLOVAKIA REP (ON BEHALF OF THE
SOVIET BLOC) SAID THAT THEY SUPPORTED ALL EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE
CORRUPT PRACTICES BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THAT WORK ON
THE MANDATORY CODE OF CONDUCT SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY.

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HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES CONSIDERED ILLICIT

PAYMENTS TO BE ONLY ONE PART OF THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF CORRUPTION AND SAW NO NEED TO CREATE A NEW BODY TO WORK ON THIS; HOWEVER, THEY HAD AGREED NOT TO OBJECT TO THIS RESOLUTION SINCE IT ENJOYED SUPPORT OF THE G-77. HE SAID THAT IF THERE HAD BEEN A VOTE, THE SOVIET BLOC WOULD HAVE ABSTAINED. CUBAN REP FOLLOWED THE SAME LINE ADDING ONLY THAT CORRUPT PRACTICES BY TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS WILL DISAPPEAR ONLY WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF CAPITALISM ITSELF.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY WED (UK, FRG, FRANCE, ITALY, JAPAN AND GREECE) AND G-77 (AFGHANISTAN, MEXICO, ARGENTINA, VENEZUELA, PERU, IRAN AND NIGERIA) REPS TOOK THE FLOOR TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION. IN THEIR STATEMENTS, THE G-77 SPOKESMAN MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ATTACHED PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH THREE WHICH REAFFIRMS THAT THE FORMULATION OF A GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT SHOULD BE GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. US REP CLOSED GENERAL DEBATE WITH SHORT STATEMENT EXPRESSING OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THIS INITIATIVE AND RECONFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATE CONSTRUCTIVELY IN EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A CODE OF CONDUCT.

4. THE ONLY OPEN QUESTION NOW IS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE 18 MAN AD HOC INTER-GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP. THE CONSENSUS AT THIS MORNING'S MEETING WAS THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO SELECT THE WORKING GROUP DURING THIS SESSION OF ECOSOC AND THAT IT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE AT A RESUMED 61ST ECOSOC IN SEPTEMBER. IN THE INTERVAL, REGIONAL GROUPS ARE TO CONSULT AMONG EACH OTHER AND ADVISE THE ECOSOC PRESIDENT OF THEIR CHOICES. (COMMENT: IN THE COURSE OF THIS PROCESS, WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO LIMIT THE GROUP TO 18 AND ANTICIPATE THAT THE FINAL COMPROMISE TO BE WORKED OUT IN NY WILL INEVITABLY ENLARGE THE GROUP TO AT LEAST 27). CATTO
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